

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE COMMISSION ON AGING**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order in the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center on February 13, 2007 by Chairman Callen at 9:35 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Breaker, Cardella, Craft, Clutter, Griffith, Virobik
and Chairman Callen

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Craft led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Griffith provided the inspiration:

In order to see the Rainbow, you must first endure some Rain.

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Craft moved, Commissioner Virobik seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of February 13, 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Griffith requested that the first sentence, in the last paragraph under Health be amended to read as follows: "Commissioner Griffith shared that Kaiser will be supplying shingles vaccination for their members."

MOTION: Commissioner Griffith moved, Commissioner Virobik seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of January 9, 2007, as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Callen acknowledged former Commissioner Dean who has resigned from the Commission to serve on the Civil Services Commission. He thanked Ms. Dean for her dedication and fantastic work, adding that the Civil Services Commission's gain is the Commission on Aging's loss.

Former Commissioner Dean thanked the members of the Commission for helping her get involved and for their guidance. The Commission on Aging is such an important commission and she is so proud of the work done on Transportation. Ms. Dean shared that she has waited along time to serve on the Civil Service Commission and is looking forward to this new endeavor.

Commissioner Virobik thanked Ms. Dean for her dedication and work on the Transportation Committee.

Commission on Aging Liaison Wand commented that it has been a pleasure to work with Ms Dean and that she will be a great addition to the Civil Service Commission

7. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council

Commissioner Griffith reported that the City Council approved the taxi ride/franchise matter, appointed two members to the Airport Commission and formed a Charter Revision Committee. She talked of the Strategic Plan Committee and her concern regarding a comment that all senior groups have been consulted, which is not the case. Commissioner Griffith spoke on the importance of this issue and the need to dig beyond the average person saying "all is great with the seniors." Issues like home sharing, aging in place, etc., are important to seniors and should be thoroughly studied/

Commission on Aging Liaison Wand clarified that work on the Strategic Plan is in the preliminary stage and a committee has not yet been formed. A committee will be named at a later date and will include a member from the Commission on Aging. Ms. Wand noted that Assistant City Manager Mary Giordano and Linda Cessna from Community Development are the contact persons for this issue and that members of the Commission can email either one with their suggestions or concerns.

B. Housing

Commissioner Griffith noted a Daily Breeze article on a mobile home owner.

C. Health

Commissioner Clutter shared an update on his wife's claim against Chili's Restaurant and what has occurred with payments issued. He explained that it is how Chili's win their cases; their legal tactics are to drag out the cases for so long and put all these type of involved and confusing contingencies on claim payments so the claimant finally gives up. He shared that his wife has been so negatively affected by this and has decided to drop the claim.

Commissioner Virobik urged Commission Clutter to obtain legal advice on this matter from the free legal service offered at the Bartlett Center. She also shared an article how eating onions can prevent cancer.

Commissioner Griffith talked of an article on loneliness and its relation to dementia. She also spoke on an "End of Life" workshop she attended, relaying that a person has a right to seek, end or refuse treatment at anytime.

Commissioner Virobik talked of a friend, in her late 60's, who is dying of cancer. Her family wanted an autopsy performed at the time of her death to determine the origin of the cancer so family members can take the necessary preventative measures. She discussed this with a doctor who informed her that cancer in your 20's or 30's is genetic. Cancer in older adults is not genetic so there would be no need for an autopsy.

D. Transportation

Commissioner Virobik relayed that Claire from Torrance Memorial Hospital has voiced concerns regarding the timelines of rides for seniors from the Hospital by our community transit. She told Claire to contact Ennie Chung, who then instructed Claire to keep a log on pickup problems and she will report it.

Commissioner Cardella stated that taxi cabs treat those paying cash different from those with tickets. The Commissioners held further discussion on this issue, agreeing that taxi cabs should not ask how a person is paying and or base their level of service on that information.

E. Cable

Chairman Callen stated that recent showings of Historic Torrance have gone over very well. Two shows are currently being edited. The Roaring 90's Plus with 62 participants over the age of 90 having a great time, and Senior Saloon a comedy melodrama about the old west.

Chairman Callen further stated that he is starting work on Portrait of a Senior, featuring Carolyn Schneider who has done tremendous work,

Commissioner Griffith noted that some senior biographies are being aired on people who have already passed away, which should be noted on the presentation.

Commissioner Craft indicated that he gets information for the Commission on the upcoming Cable TV Awards, sharing that it is a wonderful event.

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Virobik shared that Daily Breeze columnist Helen Dennis, who writes a column on Successful Aging, mentioned Focal Point as a good resource to address multiple needs of older adults. The Program received seven calls after the column was published.

Commissioner Virobik reported the following statistics for the month of January:

- Total number of calls received -- 127
- Total number of documented calls -- 70
(Note: 27 follow up phone calls were made to clients)
- Miscellaneous calls -- 57
- Total number of walk-ins -- 38

Of the 70 documented calls,

- 46% were in regard to Housing
- 21.4% were in regard to In-Home Services, and
- 10% were for Legal Services

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Chairman Callen shared that a Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff was a guest speaker at a recent Kiwanis meeting and discussed fraud. He noted it was very informational and that he will try and get the deputy to speak here.

H. Club Reports

1. Senior Citizens Golf Club

Chairman Callen report that there has been a small turnout due to the cold weather and that the Young Senior Club is paid up.

2. WALTERIA SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

Commissioner Breaker shared that all is well at the Club. Per an inquiry from Chairman Callen, he clarified that Club members do not oppose the Commission's participation.

Commissioner Griffith added that our generations of seniors value their independence.

8. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Callen spoke on the upcoming Older American Week.

Commission on Aging Liaison Wand stated that one to six individuals will be recognized at the City Level by the City Council and one individual is then selected for County recognition. She asked that Commissioners bring in their nominees along with a paragraph about that individual to the next meeting.

Ms. Wand also spoke on the reduction in Commission membership through attrition and that the City Council will address this and the staggering of terms at their March 6th meeting.

Commissioner Virobik remarked on the Free AARP Tax Counseling for Seniors at the Torrance City Hall through April 16, 2007, reminding everyone to keep in mind City Hall's closing on alternate Fridays and holidays.

Commission on Aging Liaison Wand talked of the beautiful celebration held in honor of Irene Galaviz who worked at the Center until last October and recently passed away at age 92. Ms. Wand spoke on Irene's wonderful contribution to the seniors and the Center and how it gave her such a strong sense of purpose.

Commissioner Virobik also acknowledged the wonderful tribute to Irene, stating that Irene made real difference in the City and was a true inspiration to other seniors.

Commissioner Griffith confirmed that she will pick up the information from H.E.L.P.

Commissioner Cardella confirmed that she will pick up Torrance Memorial's "For Your Advantage".

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. to Tuesday, March 13, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. at the Bartlett Center, Hosler Conference Room.

Approved as Amended March 13, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
